

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An image processing condition determining apparatus for determining image processing conditions defining contents of image processing wherein an original image is subjected to the image processing, said image processing condition determining apparatus comprising:

an image obtaining section for obtaining an initial image associated with the original image;

an image creating section for performing an image creating processing wherein an image assembly, consisting of the initial image obtained by said image obtaining section ~~per se~~ or consisting of a reference image in which a predetermined image processing is applied to the initial image and a plurality of variation images in which image processing is applied to the initial image in accordance with an image processing condition wherein a parameter value of an adjustment parameter selected from a plurality of parameters is varied, taking as a reference a reference image processing condition for obtaining the reference image of image processing conditions defined by a set of parameter values of the plurality of parameters, is created for each of three or more sorts of adjustment parameters;

a display section for displaying the image assembly created by said image creating section;

a reference image set up section for setting up one of a plurality of images constituting a plurality of image assemblies displayed on said display section in a form of a new reference image according to an operation of an operator; and

an image processing condition determining section for determining a reference image processing condition associated with the reference image finally set up by said reference image set up section in a form of an image processing condition where the original image is subjected to the image processing, in accordance with the operation,

wherein said image creating section repeats said image creating processing, upon receipt of set up of the reference image, taking an image processing condition for creating a set up new reference image as a new reference image processing condition.

2. (currently amended): An image processing condition determining apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an image attribute designating section for designating an attribute of an image in accordance with another operation of the operator, and~~[[;]]~~

a parameter determining section for determining the adjustment parameter in accordance with the attribute designated by said image attribute designating section,

wherein said image creating section creates the image assembly on the adjustment parameter determined by said parameter determining section.

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3. (original): An image processing condition determining apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said image creating section creates three or more image assemblies including at least two image assemblies in which a parameter value of a same adjustment parameter is varied with mutually different variation widths, instead of creating the image assembly for each of three or more sorts of adjustment parameters.

4. (currently amended): An image processing ~~image processing~~ condition determining program storage medium storing an image processing condition determining program which causes a computer system to operate as an image processing condition determining apparatus when the image processing condition determining program is executed in the computer system, said image processing condition determining program comprising:

an image obtaining section for obtaining an initial image associated with ~~[[the]]~~ an original image;

an image creating section for performing an image creating processing wherein an image assembly, consisting of the initial image obtained by said image obtaining section ~~per se~~ or consisting of a reference image in which a predetermined image processing is applied to the initial image and a plurality of variation images in which image processing is applied to the initial image in accordance with an image processing condition wherein a parameter value of an adjustment parameter selected from a plurality of parameters is varied, taking as a reference a reference image processing condition for obtaining the reference image of image processing

conditions defined by a set of parameter values of the plurality of parameters, is created for each of three or more sorts of adjustment parameters;

a reference image set up section for setting up one of a plurality of images constituting a plurality of image assemblies created by said image creating section in a form of a new reference image according to an operation of an operator; and

an image processing condition determining section for determining a reference image processing condition associated with the reference image finally set up by said reference image set up section in a form of an image processing condition where the original image is subjected to the image processing, in accordance with the operation,

wherein said image creating section repeats said image creating processing, upon receipt of set up of the reference image, taking an image processing condition for creating a set up new reference image as a new reference image processing condition.

5. (new): An image processing condition determining apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the operator selects the one of a plurality of images as a first favorite image and selects a second favorite image from another plurality of images taking the first favorite image as the new reference image.

6. (new): An image processing condition determining apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the operator parallelly performs rough adjustment and fine adjustment with respect to the selected adjustment parameter.

7. (new): An image processing condition determining apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image processing conditions include at least one of factors representative of brightness parameters including highlight point set up densities and curvatures of a highlight curve, halftone curve and shadow curve.

8. (new): An image processing condition determining apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of parameters include at least one of highlights, sky, skin and brightness.

9. (new): An image processing condition determining apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image assembly is a string of images.

10. (new): An image processing condition determining apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a pick point designating section for designating pick points on the image assembly displayed on said display section in accordance with another operation of the operator; and

an assist item set up section for setting up a state of condition of the pick point designated by said pick point designating section in accordance with another operation of the operator.

11. (new): An image processing condition determining method for determining image processing conditions defining contents of image processing wherein an original image is

subjected to the image processing, said image processing condition determining method comprising:

- obtaining an initial image associated with the original image;
- performing an image creating processing wherein an image assembly, consisting of the initial image obtained by said image obtaining section or consisting of a reference image in which a predetermined image processing is applied to the initial image and a plurality of variation images in which image processing is applied to the initial image in accordance with an image processing condition wherein a parameter value of an adjustment parameter selected from a plurality of parameters is varied, taking as a reference a reference image processing condition for obtaining the reference image of image processing conditions defined by a set of parameter values of the plurality of parameters, is created for each of three or more sorts of adjustment parameters;

- displaying created the image assembly;
- setting up one of a plurality of images constituting a plurality of displayed image assemblies in a form of a new reference image according to an operation; and

- determining a reference image processing condition associated with the finally set up reference image in a form of an image processing condition where the original image is subjected to the image processing, in accordance with the operation,

- wherein said image creating processing is repeated upon receipt of set up of the reference image, taking an image processing condition for creating a set up new reference image as a new reference image processing condition.

12. (new): An image processing condition determining method according to claim 11, further comprising:

designating an attribute of an image in accordance with another operation, and
determining the adjustment parameter in accordance with the designated attribute,
wherein the image assembly is created on the determined adjustment parameter.

13. (new): An image processing condition determining method according to claim 11, wherein three or more image assemblies is created including at least two image assemblies in which a parameter value of a same adjustment parameter is varied with mutually different variation widths, instead of creating the image assembly for each of three or more sorts of adjustment parameters.

14. (new): An image processing condition determining method according to claim 11, wherein an operator selects the one of a plurality of images as a first favorite image and selects a second favorite image from another plurality of images taking the first favorite image as the new reference image.

15. (new): An image processing condition determining method according to claim 11, wherein an operator parallelly performs rough adjustment and fine adjustment with respect to the selected adjustment parameter.

16. (new): An image processing condition determining apparatus for determining image processing conditions defining contents of image processing wherein an original image is subjected to the image processing, said image processing condition determining apparatus comprising:

an image obtaining section for obtaining an initial image associated with the original image;

an image creating section for performing an image creating processing wherein an image assembly, comprising a reference image in which a predetermined image processing is applied to the initial image and a plurality of variation images in which image processing is applied to the initial image in accordance with an image processing condition wherein a parameter value of an adjustment parameter selected from a plurality of parameters is varied, taking as a reference a reference image processing condition for obtaining the reference image of image processing conditions defined by a set of parameter values of the plurality of parameters, is created for each of three or more sorts of adjustment parameters;

a display section for displaying the image assembly created by said image creating section;

a reference image set up section for setting up one of a plurality of images constituting a plurality of image assemblies displayed on said display section in a form of a new reference image according to an operation of an operator; and

an image processing condition determining section for determining a reference image processing condition associated with the reference image finally set up by said reference image

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set up section in a form of an image processing condition where the original image is subjected to the image processing, in accordance with the operation,

wherein said image creating section repeats said image creating processing, upon receipt of set up of the reference image, taking an image processing condition for creating a set up new reference image as a new reference image processing condition.